the same of ourselves. I wish I did not have to vote against the previous question simply to voice my opposition to the pay raise, but I do. The protection of our children is an issue that is near to my heart, but so is my commitment to the people of east Texas to balance the Federal budget. I oppose this motion to instruct in its current form only because it is incomplete.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it appears that after a long battle this House may be close to considering campaign finance reform. It is my hope that when we do that we will have a fair, bipartisan bill that contains no poison pills and offers real reform of the system.

I have been working with fellow freshman Members to create such a bill. We agreed at the very beginning to put aside any poison pills, items that would automatically put one party at a competitive disadvantage. The result was a bill that bans soft money, increases candidate disclosure, and requires organizations making independent expenditures to reveal who they are and how much money they are spending. It was not an easy process, but we learned to work together and trust each other and in the end drafted a fair bill that will make a real difference in the system.

There may be a great temptation to kill a reform bill with partisan amendments. I hope that we can avoid that fate. The only way a campaign finance bill can become law is through bipartisan cooperation. If we can reject poison pills, reject partisan attacks and reject the temptation to pass a bill without teeth, then we can see true campaign finance reform for the first time since the 1970's.

Today we are at a crucial time in this debate, I hope we don't blow it.

EXTEND SECTION 245(i) OF THE IM-MIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to

discuss the importance of extending section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 245(i) allows immigrants who are out of status, but legally eligible for visas, to pay a \$1,000 fee to adjust their status while

out of status, but legally eligible for visas, to pay a \$1,000 fee to adjust their status while remaining within the borders of the United States.

These immigrants are eligible to obtain legal status in the form of permanent residence in this country based on a family relationship or an offer of employment.

What naysayers must understand is that the 245(i) program does not alter U.S. immigration policy, or make entering our country any easier. What it does is assist a pediatrician who comes to this country to help care for our kids. It helps foreign students who have been educated at American universities and have cho-

sen to utilize their new talents right here in the United States. It assists a wife who comes to America to join her husband who has built a solid career here. It allows all of these people to renew their status with a fee, rather than requiring them to take a return trip to their native country. In some cases they may not be able to return for 3 to 5 years.

But the dream of staying in the United States for many of these people may soon be just that—a dream. Next Tuesday, these people who have come here hoping to be reunited with a family member or hoping to provide their talents to the greatest nation on earth, may be forced back to their native land without a blink of an eye. On September 30, 1997, 245(i) is scheduled to sunset. If we do not extend this section, a mass deportation will occur—wives will be taken from their husbands' arms and valued workers will lose their jobs. Families will be ripped apart and businesses will be disrupted. We should not and cannot allow this to happen.

An extension of 245(i) would not only benefit immigrants currently living in the United States, their family members and their employers, but would benefit our country as a whole. For example, that fee these immigrants pay to renew their status goes straight into the U.S. State Department coffers, at a sum of \$200 million each year. 245(i) provides the Immigration and Naturalization Service with the funds necessary to carry out important enforcement and detention functions.

By allowing immigrants to change their status within the our Nation, the United States has also been able to reduce the applications at the consulate by 3 percent. This allows them to focus on their primary functions of enhancing foreign diplomacy and assisting United States citizens living or traveling abroad.

I ask you, as Members of Congress and representatives of the people, what is the benefit to our country of breaking up families and breaking down businesses? I urge my colleagues to support the extension of this necessary and beneficial provision.

THE NEED TO ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of eliminating the marriage tax. Although this Congress has made significant steps in reducing the tax burden on Americans we still have a long road ahead of us in restructuring our Tax Code and instill fairness to all taxpayers. As we travel down this road one of our first stops must be to eliminate the tax that penalizes the sacred institution of marriage.

My opposition to the tax on marriage is simply a question of fairness. Why should a man and woman who are married and living together be taxed more than a man and woman living together who are not married? CBO has estimated that 21 million couples have paid on average \$1,400 and some exceeding \$20,000 in surplus taxes as a result of having to change their filing status to married. This is a substantial amount of money that could be used toward a child's education, retirement

savings, a new home or a car. Furthermore, a couple should not have to consider the IRS when deciding whether to enter into marriage. The marriage penalty blatantly contradicts what this Congress has attempted to achieve in strengthening American families and providing significant tax relief.

Married couples are faced with numerous challenges and burdens. Let us not forget that married couples frequently are in the process of raising children—a wonderful and very expensive experience—and should therefore be afforded as much financial relief as possible. Let's not punish these couples for their love and commitment for one another, let's reward them for their willingness to strengthen our society through the sacred bond of marriage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Rollcall votes Nos. 410 through 415.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll No. 410, no on Roll No. 411, aye on Roll No. 412, aye on Roll No. 413, no on Roll No. 414, and aye on Roll No. 415.

THE OCEANS ACT OF 1997

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Oceans Act of 1997. I am pleased to be able to offer this bill with the support of the chairman of Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, Representative JIM SAXTON; the ranking Democrat of that subcommittee, Representative Neil Abercrombie; and the ranking Democrat on the Resources Committee, Representative George Miller, as well as Representatives GILCHREST, PALLONE, GEORGE BROWN, PORTER GOSS, PATRICK KENNEDY, and SOLOMON ORTIZ.

This is an exciting time in the history of man's relationship with the oceans. With this year as the International Year of the Reef, and next year as the International Year of the Ocean, more focus is being directed on the state of the world's coasts and oceans than ever before. And rightly so.

We are critically dependent on the oceans, and the resources we derive from them. Commercial and recreational fishing provides 1.5 million jobs and an estimated \$111 billion annually to the Nation's economy, and more than 30 percent of the United States GNP is produced in coastal counties. Americans love the ocean and beaches: they are our leading tourist destination, with 85 percent of tourist revenues being spent in coastal States. In 1993 more than 180 million Americans visited coastal waters nationwide, and in California alone the revenue generated by tourism is approximately \$38 billion annually. The beautiful coasts and ocean in my district are key to the areas's \$1.5 billion travel and tourism industry.